

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) Mask apparatus including a generally ring-shape sealing assembly (1) adapted to be retained with the head and to seal around at least the mouth of a user, and a gas inlet (33) for supplying gas to the apparatus, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that the sealing assembly (1) has a central opening (2) located in the region of the mouth, and a removable closure (30) for securing with the central opening (2), and that the gas inlet (33) is mounted with the closure (30).
2. (Currently amended) Mask apparatus according to Claim 1, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that the closure includes a plate (30).
3. (Currently amended) Mask apparatus according to Claim 2, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that the plate (30) is curved and rigid.
4. (Currently amended) Mask apparatus according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that the closure (30) is a push fit in the central opening (2).
5. (Currently amended) Mask apparatus according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that the sealing assembly (1) includes a shelf (4) adapted to extend beneath the nose of the user.
6. (Currently amended) Mask apparatus according to Claim 5, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that the shelf (4) supports a compliant substance (7) adapted to seal around the nostrils.
7. (Currently amended) Mask apparatus according to Claim 5 ~~or 6~~, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that the shelf has (4) a passage (6, 8) therethrough adapted to supply gas to the user's nose.

8. (Currently amended) Mask apparatus according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~
Claim 1, characterised characterized in that the apparatus includes a harness (20) secured
with the sealing assembly (1) and adapted to extend around the head of the user.

9. (Currently amended) Mask apparatus according to Claim 8, ~~characterised~~
characterized in that the harness (20) comprises two triangular portions (21) encircling
respective ears of the user, that both portions (21) have a rear limb (25) extending
substantially vertically at the rear of the user's head, and that the rear limbs (25) are
securable with one another at the rear of the user's head.

10. (Currently amended) Mask apparatus according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~
Claim 1, characterised characterized in that the sealing assembly (1) includes an adhesive
extending around its edge (9) to contact the user's skin.

11. (New) Mask apparatus according to Claim 6, characterized in that the shelf has a
passage therethrough adapted to supply gas to the user's nose.

12. (New) Mask apparatus according to Claim 8, characterized in that the sealing
assembly includes an adhesive extending around its edge to contact the user's skin.

Respectfully submitted,



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